

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6263

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

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UNCLAS NAIROBI 2310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UG, KE

SUBJ: KENYAN REACTION TO DEATH OF UGANDAN ARCHBISHOP

REF NAIROBI 2168 (NOTAL)

1. REACTION IN KENYA TO THE DEATHS OF ARCHBISHOP JANANI LUWUM AND UGANDAN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS ORGEMA AND OFUMBI HAS BEEN ONE OF OUTRAGE AND SEVERE CON- DEMNATION OF "BARBAROUS AND INDISCRIMINATE GENOCIDE" AND OF THE "TYRANNICAL REGIME" IN UGANDA. LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN DAILY FRONT-PAGE AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE TO THE FEBRUARY 16 "COLD BLOODED KILLINGS," EVEN PRINTING A SEGMENT OF LUWUM'S DIARY IN WHICH HE PROFESSED INNOCENCE OF ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE JANUARY COUP ATTEMPT. FEBRUARY 22 PRESS CARRIES STATEMENT BY BRITISH BISHOP LESLIE BROWN THAT LUWUM KILLED BY BULLETS IN CHEST AND MOUTH. PAPERS HAVE DEMANDED AN INQUIRY INTO THE DEATHS.

2. CHURCH LEADERS AND PUBLIC FIGURES THROUGHOUT KENYA

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HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS DEPLORING THE "KILLINGS." BELIEF THAT KILLINGS MAY BE PART OF A CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN UGANDA IS GAINING POPULARITY IN KENYA. ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES OFFICIAL CANON BURGESS CARR, A LIBERIAN, ASSERTED THAT "MURDER" OF THE ARC BISHOP WAS "PART OF A CAMPAIGN OF TERROR UNLEASHED AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN UGANDA." GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF KENYA SAID ARCHBISHOP LUWUM'S DEATH "LOOKED LIKE PART OF AN ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE CHRISTIANS AND FORCE EVERYBODY IN UGANDA TO BE A MUSLIM." KANU MOMBASA CHAIRMAN SARIFF NASSIR (A KENYAN OF ARAB ORIGIN) CRITICIZED THOSE COUNTRIES AIDING MAIN'S REGIME FOR VIOLATION OF THE UN'S POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS. OAU HAS BEEN PUBLICLY CHIDED FOR FOCUSING MORE ATTENTION ON WHITE REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THAN ON SUFFERING OF PEOPLE IN COUNTRIES LIKE UGANDA. THIS COMPLAINT WAS VOTED BY BISHOP IMATHIU OF KENYA DURING THE FEBRUARY 20 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ARCHBISHOP LUWUM HELD AT NAIROBI'S ALL SAINT'S CATHEDRAL, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY THOUSANDS OF CHURCH-MEN AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

3. UGANDA'S REACTION TO THIS OUTPOURING OF CRITICISM HAS BEEN TO HEAP SCORN ON ITS CRITICS. AMIN HAS CHARGED THAT CAONON CARR IS AN "IMPERIALIST HOSTILE TO UGANDA," AND THAT AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG IS "SPEAKING LIKE THE ZIONIST ISRAELIS" BECAUSE THEY DO NOT ACCEPT THE OFFICIAL GOU VERSION OF THE THREE DEATHS. MARSHALL

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Disposition Event:
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